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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) & (b) The areas mentioned below are regarded as drought-affected in the Chittoor district—

Madanapalle taluk, excepting Madanapalle firka.

Vayalpad taluk, except Yarravaripalem firka.

Puttur taluk—Rayalacheruvu firka.

Chittoor.

Chandragiri.

Punganur.

"(c) One hundred and twenty-two Highways works, 58 Food Production works, 487 Minor Irrigation works, 681 Rural Water-supply works and 2 blocks of contour bunding works are in progress in the drought-affected areas of Chittoor district. Four hundred and seventy fair price shops are functioning. 'Rs. 150 subsidy scheme' to deepen drinking water wells has been revived. Two hundred and forty-two gruel centres are functioning. In addition loans are being disbursed liberally. Proposals for sanctioning of land revenue remission are under the consideration of the Government. But collection of land revenue has been suspended where remission will ultimately have to be granted."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say why gruel centres have been closed in Madanapalle and Vayalpad taluks?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Gruel centres cannot be run throughout the year. When agricultural conditions improve, certain gruel centres have to be closed."

SRI G. SIVASANKARA REDDI :—" Some areas, which are classified as 'C' zones, i.e., areas which are on the verge of famine, have been granted remissions and may I know the reason for it?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Some more concessions are being considered and they will be given."

The Cherupuzhathodu bridge in North Malabar.

* 730 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the construction of the Cherupuzhathodu bridge in Payyanoor firka in North Malabar stands now; and

(b) how much amount of money Government have already spent on constructing the bridge?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) A bridge of timber trestle and timber deck which was nearly completed was washed away by floods in the river, leaving the deck over

one span and wooden piles undamaged. The question of constructing a pucca masonry bridge instead of the timber bridge is under consideration.

" (b) The expenditure on the work so far incurred is Rs. 25,115 and the Government grant drawn by the Malabar District Board is stated to be Rs. 15,752."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" When I put the same question last time, the Hon. Minister was pleased to give the answer that the construction of the bridge had already begun and that the work would be completed within two weeks. I went to that place and found that the construction had not begun. The Government spent Rs. 55,000 on the construction of the bridge and the bridge was washed away within two weeks after construction. Is it a fact that the Public Works Department mismanaged the whole thing and sold away the materials and that the Government did not take care to see that the bridge was constructed in a proper manner? The Public Works Department did not even fix the nuts and bolts, Sir, for this bridge. Such was the negligence."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is making a speech. Let him put the question straightway."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" I want a definite answer from the Hon. Minister as to when the construction of the bridge will begin and when the work will be completed."

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The timber bridge has been washed away, and the question of constructing a pucca masonry bridge is under consideration. The timber bridge was constructed by the District Board and Public Works Department Engineer."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Did the Government investigate into the loss incurred on account of the bridge being washed away?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The Department will naturally investigate and find out whether the loss is due to avoidable causes or not."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" My question is whether a committee not belonging to the engineering department will be appointed to investigate the loss."

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The matter will be considered."

9-30 a.m. SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" In view of the importance of this question, I request the Hon. Speaker to allow a half-hour debate to-day."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Provided the House is prepared to sit till 2 o'clock, I have no objection to the half-hour debate. Question-time is over."

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SRI V. CHIDANANDAM :—" In view of the fact that a number of questions have been left over the other day for to-day, and as so many questions had been left over to-day, when are we to complete the questions? There are so many important questions."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The answers to the remaining questions will be printed in the proceedings."

Representations from the Harijans of Vadalakunta in Kovvur taluk, West Godavari district.

* 731 Q.—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government (Collector) received any representations from the Harijans of Vadalakunta of Kovvur taluk in West Godavari district complaining that the caste-Hindus of the village are not permitting the Harijans to use the public well (Rural Water-supply well) for drinking water purposes;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government proposed another well at enormous cost exclusively for those Harijans?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) The well near the Harijan colony in Vadalakunta village of Kovvur taluk is a District Board well and was not constructed under the R.W.S. scheme. No complaints have been received so far to the effect that the Harijans are not allowed to use the well in question.

" (b) Does not arise.

" (c) As the water-supply in the existing well was not sufficient for the use of the entire population of the village the erection of a pump at a cost of Rs. 1,000 has been sanctioned by the Collector. It is a fact that the well is proposed for the use of the Harijans. The cost is not however enormous as explained above."

Agricultural farm at Palur, South Arcot district.

* 732 Q.—SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Agricultural farm at Palur, South Arcot district, is working at a loss or gain to Government; and

(b) what is the amount of expenditure incurred every year on its maintenance?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (a) The Agricultural Research Station, Palur, is working at a loss in the sense that expenses are not covered by receipts.

" (b) The average annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the station during the last five years is about Rupees 47,000."